

Intervention: Interventions for educating children who have attended the emergency room for asthma

Finding: Insufficient evidence to determine effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Background on the intervention:

Asthma is one of the most common causes for admission of children to the hospital, and there are substantial costs. There is some evidence to suggest that many hospital admissions could be prevented with effective education about asthma and its management.

Findings from the systematic reviews:

Trials were reviewed that were for asthma education for children who had been to the emergency department for asthma, with or without inpatient admission, within the previous 12 months. Eight trials were included. In these trials, education was provided by nurses or researchers.

Compared to controls (usual care or low-intensity education), education did not reduce subsequent emergency department visits, hospital admissions, or unscheduled doctor visits. Thus, no firm evidence supports the use of asthma education for children who have been to the emergency department for asthma as a way of reducing future emergency department visits, hospital admissions, or unscheduled doctor visits.

Limitations/Comments:

Some trials seemed to show clear evidence of some benefit, but reasons for this and for the negative studies are not clear. Additional research is needed in this area.

Reference:

Haby MM, Waters E, Robertson CF, Gibson PG, Ducharme FM. Interventions for educating children who have attended the emergency room for asthma. *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2001, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD001290. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001290.